UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/330
19 August 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Forty-eighth session
Items 80, 109 and 115 of the provisional agenda*

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 18 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communication from the Government concerning the events that occurred on Annobón Island (Equatorial Guinea) last Saturday, 14 August (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 80, 109 and 115 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Dámaso OBIANG NDONG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/150.

ANNEX

Communication from the Government of Equatorial Guinea concerning the events that occurred on Annobón Island on 14 August

It is with deep regret that the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea informs the people of Equatorial Guinea and international public opinion of the sad events that occurred on Annobón Island in the early hours of the morning of 14 August last, when a group of individuals led by Liberato Segura, Orlando Cartagena, Joaquín Ronda Tomé, Narciso Villalba, Diosdado Ballovera, José Barril Camara, Javier Menejal Pelayo, Leoncio Medina Ballovera, Antonio Segorbe, Antonio Garriga Manresa and other islanders, nationals of Equatorial Guinea, forced their way by surprise into the official residence of the Governor of that province, Mr. Marcos Ondo Nze, who was in the company of the military chief, Lieutenant Marcelino Mesi. Both men were disarmed and taken captive and the two pistols that they carried for personal defence were seized.

Keeping the two hostages gagged at the scene of their capture, they took the two pistols and made their way to the military barracks, intending to mount an assault and seize weapons.

Faced with the hostile group of assailants, the military sought to dissuade them from their purpose; instead of yielding, the assailants opened fire on the garrison with the pistols they had seized, provoking an exchange of gunfire which unfortunately cost the lives of two of the assailants, nationals of Equatorial Guinea.

On repulsing the attack and bringing the situation under control, the military arrested five of the assailants and led them subsequently to the place where the two officials were being held captive.

The Governor and the military chief, severely injured as a result of torture, were released and admitted to the local hospital in serious condition. The former was subsequently transferred to Bata Hospital.

On hearing of these events, the people of Annobón flocked to the local hospital to express strong disapproval and condemnation of the assailants' actions. They made it clear that the people of Annobón were not in sympathy with the hostage-takers, since they had arrived on the island from Malabo with the last boat and were a group whose agenda did not correspond to the real feelings of the Annobón people, whom they had told that their subsequent actions would all be directed towards improving the island's situation because they were activists of opposition political parties and were backed by certain diplomatic missions, including the Embassy of Spain.

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea expresses solidarity with our brother islanders and condemns the conduct of the elements who perpetrated such acts; it extends its sympathy to the bereaved families and shares the grief of the entire nation, reaffirming its determination to ensure that peace, order, good fellowship and harmony prevail in the country, inspiring and strengthening our political transition.

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea wishes to draw the attention of the people of Equatorial Guinea once again to the conduct and actions of the Spanish Government in relation to the process of consolidation of multiparty democracy in our country, a process that they are trying to turn into a bloodbath and fratricidal strife between compatriots by exploiting weaknesses in the opposition political parties.

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea has persistently and unremittingly denounced this hostile attitude but the Spanish Government has hitherto shown no interest in recanting.

When the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea denounces the attitude of the Spanish Government and certain Spanish political circles, it is basing itself on historical and contemporary facts. The historical facts were reported in its communication of 5 August and the contemporary facts bear witness to Spain's obstructionist attitude to our political transition process, following the failures it has incurred in: bringing the opposition political parties together in a united front against the Government; requesting international financial institutions to impose an economic blockade on our country; urging the political parties to boycott the forthcoming parliamentary elections; fomenting civil disobedience among the population of Equatorial Guinea by mounting a campaign against the census and against voting; and promoting, inter alia, student revolts with a view to fostering continuous social unrest, as has repeatedly been reported.

The events that occurred on Annobón Island bear out these allegations, given the propaganda campaign that the former colonial Power has been waging on Spain's foreign broadcasting corporation, Radio Exterior España. In the same vein, mention may be made of a secret visit to Annobón by Raúl Izquierdo, former Coordinator-General of Cooperación Española, and his statements to the people of Annobón at the time to the effect that the "Government of Equatorial Guinea is obstructing humanitarian aid and development programmes for Annobón Island". All of this, together with the fact that the Coordinator was withdrawn shortly afterwards by his Government without completing the usual formalities, show that a Machiavellian plan of subversion, one of whose consequences was the unfortunate incident on the morning of 14 August, had been set in motion and all that remained was to await the results.

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea again calls on the Spanish Government and certain Spanish political circles to respect the national and international legal status of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which ceased to be a colony of Spain 25 years ago. Spain should remember with shame that in former times Annobón was the place in which all dangerous prisoners were confined throughout its period of colonization.

The Government also reiterates, as it did a week ago, its request to the people of Equatorial Guinea to continue living in peace with the Spanish community residing in the country.

The Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea again appeals to the conscience of all opposition political parties, whom it holds and will continue to hold responsible for all disturbances occurring in the country, and demands that they assume responsibility in accordance with the legal order. The Government is accordingly conducting appropriate investigations to determine where legal responsibility lies.